

**CITY OF HAMILTON  
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE:** January 28, 2020

**NAME OF COMMITTEE:** Committee of the Whole

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Council President Claire Kemp,  
Councilors Bielski, Pogachar, Mitchell and Pruitt

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Councilor West

**NOTE TAKER:** Cynthia Fleming, Deputy Clerk

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Donny Ramer, Public Works Director, Karen Mahar, City Attorney

---

Council President Kemp opened the meeting at 7 pm. She asked everyone to please turn off their cellphones and advised the audience that the Committee can receive public comment for items not on the agenda during the Public Comment period.

**Public Comment:**  
None.

**Approval of Minutes from 01.14.2020**

The Deputy Clerk made a correction to the minutes. Councilor Kemp was listed on the “Members Present” twice. Councilor Pogachar moved to approve the minutes with the correction. Councilor Bielski seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Agenda Items**

• **Discussion Regarding Downtown Clock Maintenance**

Donny Ramer, the Public Works Director told the Committee that he discussed the downtown clock with Pete Siefert, the President of the Downtown Hamilton Business Improvement District, (DHBID). Run, fast and fast forward is the feature that is broken on the clock. To set the clock you have to go back to the time that it shut off. The other way to set the time is to shut the clock off and wait until the time that the clock was shut off and turn it back on. Ed Barrett, the Public Works foreman has worked with the clock manufacture and Liberty Electric to set the time on the clock. Mr. Ramer said that Pete Seifert has talked with a new tech who said that he may be able to walk someone through the process or we can try to find someone local to fix it.

Mr. Ramer explained to the Committee that the issue with the clock brought to light that there is no official agreement between the DHBID and the City for who is responsible for the street features on Main Street. Mr. Ramer would like to get it formalized and he believes that it could save the DHBID money. Councilor Kemp commented that she had this discussion previously with Attorney Mahar. Ms. Mahar responded that there was pending litigation regarding the downtown area and the formalized agreement was put on hold. There has been a lot of work done since that time and she could start a draft agreement.

Director Ramer said that as part of the maintenance agreement the City could help with trash removal. Councilor Mitchell asked, would the city take care of the trash? Mr. Ramer responded that might be possible. It is about an hour to a two hour job. If someone could take the bags out and pile them in one spot, City crews could pick them up. He feels that would save the DHBID money. Funds that could be put to use maintaining and improving fixtures in the downtown area.

Councilor Pogachar asked regarding the clock, if the local person needs to be a clock person to work with the tech. Director Ramer responded, no, but does need to be mechanical. Attorney Mahar commented that there is a clock specialist in Stevensville.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Keep in Committee until we know more.

• **Amended MOU for BEAR Ropes Course in Hieronymus Park**

Attorney Mahar directed the Committee members to the 3<sup>rd</sup> amended Memorandum of Understanding, (MOU) that is in their packets. The Ropes Challenge Course has gone through several stages she told them. The amended MOU concerns the operation or removal of the course if the Bitterroot Ecological Awareness Resource, (B.E.A.R.) ceases to maintain or use the course or if their use of the City's parcel is terminated for any reason. She directed them to Paragraph 5 of the agreement that outlines what the City's notification requirements. If BEAR decides to cease operation of the Ropes Course, they need to notify the City in writing. The City will have 30 days to exercise the options of assuming responsibility.

Currently the City holds a \$5000 security deposit from the BEAR organization. Holding an organization's money for an indefinite amount of time is not very efficient for an organization. In lieu of monetary security, if BEAR ceases to function and can no longer staff or run the Ropes Course it would be given to the City to operate, Attorney Mahar explained. MR. Ramer solicited a bid to find out what the cost of removal would be. If the City decided not to operate the course, then BEAR would need to dismantle. The cost to dismantle exceeds the \$5000 amount so she feels that the City is more adequately secured with this agreement. She asked that the Committee pass the amended MOU to Council for approval. She added that the City would consider running the ropes course if BEAR could not. The City would need to have adequate staffing. Mr. Ramer added that he would like to have a recreation component in the Parks Department that could provide services such as kid's summer camps. Missoula's Parks Department has a vibrant recreational side that is very popular.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Councilor Mitchell moved to send the amended MOU to Council. Councilor Pogachar seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Non-Agenda Items:**

Donny Ramer, announced that the City of Hamilton's Zoning and Building Administrator, Land Hansen, resigned effective last Friday.

**Adjourn**

Councilor Pogachar moved to adjourn. Councilor Pruitt seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

**Topics for Consideration at a Future Meeting**

- Potential North/South Routes for Bike/Pedestrian Path
- Noise Ordinance
- Portion of Adirondac Avenue Owned by Ravalli County